International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)

Addressing Mixed Migration Flows
Migration: Myths and Reality

Migration is increasing dramatically and globally
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Overall numbers of migrants are increasing, but ...

Migrants continue to represent just 3% of total global population figures

Percentage has remained steady for past 40 years
Migration: Myths and Reality

Changes in International Migration

- More destinations
- More routes and travel strategies
  - Short(er)-term: 2-5 years

- Multi-stage

- Circular

A B C D

A B C D
Migration is increasing dramatically and globally

Migrants are flooding from the South to the North
South-South Migration

Migrants from developing countries in other developing countries = migrants from developing countries in developed countries*

South-South remittances: up to 30% of developing countries remittance receipts**

* UNSG Report on International Migration and Development, 2006
** World Bank, 2007
West African Migration

Intra-regional migration more prevalent than inter-regional migration

Of 8.5 million migrants from West Africa, 7.5 million move within the region.

Only 1 million migrate to Europe and North America.

Source: OECD, 2008
Migration: Myths and Reality

Migration is increasing dramatically and globally.

Migrants are flooding from the South to the North.

Irregular migration: most common form of movement.
Irregular migration: most common form of movement

Irregular migration: part of international migration

ILO says irregular migration: 10% of total migration flows

Total worldwide flows

Irregular migration: 10%
Mixed Migration Flows

Complex Phenomena

Composed of, among others:

- Economic migrants, high and low skilled
- Refugees
- Victims of Trafficking
- Smuggled Migrants
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Stranded Migrants
- Migrants Moving for Environmental Reasons

Mixed flows: an accurate reflection of the diversity of migration itself
Law enforcement perspective alone limited:

- Obscures rights, obligations, needs and vulnerabilities of all parties involved

All are entitled to the respect of their human rights
Mixed Migration Flows

The Big Picture

International Migrants: 200 million

Refugees: 11.4 million
Vast majority of migrants in mixed flows do not fit any particular label or established (legal) category

No legal status, no documents

No needs?
Mixed Migration Flows

- Different degrees of vulnerability among irregular migrants
- Not all vulnerable migrants fit established legal categories for protection
- Irregular migrants face dangers, hardships and human rights infringement

Needs-based protection approach
Mixed Migration Flows

Manifestation

Generally come to public attention as emergencies:

- A single migration event or a series of events

- A group of migrants arrive in an irregular manner at a particular point of destination

Highly visible

- Gulf of Aden
- Canary Islands
- Sonora & Sahara Deserts
Mixed Migration Flows

Key Response Elements

- Must move beyond ad-hoc emergency response to individual situations

Migration Life-Cycle Approach

- Roles and experiences of countries and communities of origin, transit and destination
- Support to different sub-groups: comprehensive but differentiated mechanism
Migration Life-Cycle

Pre-departure

Passage

Longer-term perspective

Post-arrival
Migration Life-Cycle

Pre-departure

Targeted Information Campaigns

Migrant Resource Centres

Awareness of the rights and obligations of both States and Migrants
Migration Life-Cycle

Passage

Humanitarian Support: Rescue Operations

Training for Law-enforcement Agencies
Migration Life-Cycle

Post-arrival

Needs Assessment & Status Determination

Assistance & Counselling

Targeted Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants
Migration Life-Cycle

Longer-Term Options

Integration

Regularization

Flexible Return Policies and Programmes

Migration Alternatives

- Return of Unaccompanied Children
- Return of Victims of Trafficking
- Provisions for Regular Migration
Inter-State Co-operation

- Enhancing data-collection and sharing relevant data among states
- Improving consistency and compatibility of regional, intra-regional and national legislation
- Strengthening Regional Consultative Processes, inter-state collaboration and existing regional frameworks
Concluding Remarks

Ensure respect for Human Rights, Dignity and Well-being of All Migrants

Inter-State and Inter-Agency Co-operation

Regular Migration Options

Meet Different Needs of Migrant Sub-groups

Meet Refugee Protection Obligations

Meet Migration Management Objectives

Address Underlying Factors